

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01477 290937Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----122814 290941Z /21

P 290830Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7707

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1477

STADIS ////////////////

NO DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE AF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, MR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: MAURITANIA ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 142616

1. AF/W DRAFT ACTION PLAN IS FIRST RATE SYNTHESIS OF MISSION
REPORTING AND WASHINGTON PERCEPTIONS. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS
AND DRAFT LANGUAGE ARE OFFERED FOR DESK/BUREAU CONSIDERATION AND
DECISION:

2. OBSERVATIONS:

(A) PARA 2: CORROBORATING BACKGROUND: FRENCH ROMAN CATHOLIC
BISHOP, HIS STAFF OF PRIESTS AND NUNS, AND THEIR SEVERAL
CONGREGATIONS HETTERED AROUND COUNTRY WORSHIP OPENLY AND FREELY
AND OPERATE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES.NOUAKCHOTT CATHEDRAL
IS ON PROMINENT CORNER ACROSS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S RESIDENCE.

(B) PARA 2: AMENDMENT TO 1961 CONSTITUTION ESTABLISHING
MAURITANIN PEOPLES PARTY AS SOLE PERMITTED POLITICAL PARTY
WAS ENACTED FEBRUARY 12, 1965, RETROACTIVE TO FOUNDING OF PPM
DECEMBER 25, 1961. PRESENT DRAFT WHILE TECHNICALLY CORRECT IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01477 290937Z

STRICT LEGAL SENSE COVERS OVER 5-6 YEARS POLITICAL EVOLUTION
WHICH GWRHCISE TO SINGLE PARTY.

(C) PARA 2: BACKGROUND AND COMMENT ON SINGLE PARTY SYSTEM
WHICH MIGHT PROFITABLY BE INCORPORATED INTO ACTION PLAN:
(I) BY 1964, ORIGINAL MULTIPARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM HAD EVOLVED
INTO COLLECTION OF PARTIES ROOTED IN PARTICULAR ETHNIC

GROUPS REPRESENTING ONLY INTERESTS OF THAT GROUP AGAINST ALL OTHERS. MULTIPARTY SYSTEM THUS BECAME SIGNIFICANT FORCE FOCUSING ETHNIC TENSIONS AND UNDERMINING NATIONAL CHESION. WITHOUT FORCLOSING OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT LATER STAGE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT (GIRM) DECIDED THAT PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL ENTITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SENSE OF NATIONHOOD REQUIRED ELIMINATION ETHNIC-BASED POLITICAL SYSTEM.

(II) ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT/PARTY-SPONSORED DAILY NEWSPAPER (FOUNDED JULY 1975) AND RADIO ARE ONLY IN-COUNTRY INFORMATION MEDIA IN EXISTENCE AT PRESENT, THEY ARE BY NO MEANS SOLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO MAURITANIANS WHO AVIDLY WATCH DAKAR TELEVISION AND LISTEN TO INTERNATIONAL RADIO SERVICES (VOA, BBC, FRANCE-INTER, DEUTSCH WELLE) AND COMESTIC SERVICES OF ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTIRES INCLUDING ALGERIA. EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT, FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND BOOKS IN ARAYIC AND FRENCH (TWO MOST COMMON WIRLEN LANGUAGES IN MAURITANIA) ARE FREELY AVAILABLE ON NEWSSTANDS AROUND COUNTRY EVEN WHEN THEY CONTAIN INFORMATION OR COMMENTARY DISTASTEFUL TO OR HIGHLY CRITICAL OF GIRM. THUS EXISTENCE OF ONE NEWSPAPER IS MORE REFLECTION OF PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPEMENT THAN RESULT OF RESTRICTIVE DECISION OF GOVERNMENT / PARTY.

(D) PARA 3: GIRM ARRESTED THOSE OBVIOUSLY GUILTY AND DISMISSED THOSE IMPLICATED PENDING COMPLETION OF ON-GOING ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01477 290937Z

3. DRAFT LANGUAGE:

(A) PARA 5 B 2: USG'S NEW EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS EVOKED INTEREST AND FAVORABLE REACTION AMONG OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE MAURITANIANS. MISSION HAS BACKED UP INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS WITH DISTRIBUTION OF FRENCH TEXTS OF KEY USG POLICY DECLARATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO WIDE RANGE OF SENIOR GIRM OFFICIALS AND TO LOCAL INFORMATION MEDIA. PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE APPLAUDED NEW US EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH LATTER CANDIDLY ADMITED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD FOUND NUMBER OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY USG BETWEEN JANUARY AND MAY 1977 "NAIVE" AND HENCE "UNSETTLING" BECAUSE OF THEIR DISTRUBING IMPACT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. MOREOVER, US POLICIES AND ACTIONS RE HUMAN RIGHTS OF BLACK MAJORITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OF PALESTINIANS IN CCUPIED WEST BANK WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY GOVERNMENT AND OPINION LEADERS IN THIS ORGNICATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND ARAB LEAGUE MEMBER STATE. EHEIR EVALUATIONS OF US STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THESE KEY AREAS WILL CONSTITUTE MAJOR FACTOR IN SHIFTING ULTIMATE MAURITANIAN VIEW OF US HUMAN RIGHTSHEFFORTS.

(B) PARA 5 B3: ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROMPTED AND SUSTAINED BY NEW US EMPHASIS HAS RAISED CONSCIOUSNESS OF OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE MAURITANIANS AND WILL PROBABLY PROMPT THEM TO (I) RENEW GIRM'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND (II) TO INSIST ON CAREFUL OBSERVANCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROCEDURES AND GUARANTEES BY GOVERNMENT AND ITS ORGANS.

4. FINAL OBSERVATION (IN RE PARA 4B): WHILE GIRM SUPPORTS US HUMAN RIGHTS EMPHASIS AND MAY WELL REDOUBLE ITS OWN EFFORTS TO OBSERVE ITS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S STANDARDS, GIRM IS UNLIKELY TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY OR PLAY PROMINENT SUPPORT ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AREA. TO CONTRARY, ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF ITS OWN POLITICAL WEAKNESS AND CONCERNED WITH ADVANCING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NOUAKC 01477 290937Z

ITS OWN URGENT POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS, LSRM CAN BE COUNTED ON NOT RPT NOT TO OPPOSE AFRICAN AND ARAB CAUCUS MAJORITIES EXCEPT PERHAPS BY ABSENCE OF ABSTENTION.

HANDYSIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC01477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770231-1141
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977067/aaaaafym.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4632667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 142616
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2200721
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: MAURITANIA ACTION PLAN
TAGS: SHUM, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4632667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009